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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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June 13, 2006

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – JOURNEY
HOUSE GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Journey House Group Home (Group Home or Agency). The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Journey House Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 14-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Journey House Group Home was providing services for six Los Angeles County probation children.

Journey House Group Home is located in the Fifth District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address the following deficient areas.

The Group Home needs to repair a torn window screen; paint the exterior of the house; clean the dining room rug; repair the floor in the spare room; clean the carpeting in the bedrooms; replace the bedroom dressers; repair ceiling cracks in bedrooms one and three; replace the desk in bedroom one; replace the mattress in bedroom two; clean the walls in bedroom three; include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans; develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include long term goals; and provide all children with the required monthly clothing allowance.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:gfw

http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Tim Mayworm, Executive Director, Journey House Group Home
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Journey House Group Home
1232 North Los Robles Avenue
Pasadena, California 91104
Phone: (626) 798-9478
License Number: 191221321
Rate Classification Level: 6**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Journey House Group Home is located in a residential community. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped. However, there is a torn window screen in the front of the house, and the exterior paint is cracked and peeling.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat. However, the dining room rug is dirty, and the spare room floor is damaged. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Overall, children's bedrooms are orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, the carpeting in all of the bedrooms is dirty, and the bedroom dressers are marked and scratched. In bedroom one, there are ceiling cracks, and the desk is scratched and worn. In bedroom two, a mattress does not fit the frame. In bedroom three, the walls are dirty, and there are cracks in the ceiling.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Journey House management:

- a. Repair the window screen.**
- b. Paint the exterior of the house.**
- c. Clean the dining room rug.**

- d. Repair the floor in the spare room.
- e. Clean the carpeting in the bedrooms.
- f. Replace or refinish the bedroom dressers.
- g. Repair the ceilings in bedrooms one and three.
- h. Replace or refinish the desk in bedroom one.
- i. Replace the mattress in bedroom two.
- j. Clean the walls in bedroom three.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team and input from the child are not included in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs). The NSPs are current; however, they are not realistic, and do not include long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

2. Journey House management:

- a. Include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs.
- b. Develop NSPs that are realistic, and include long term goals.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no residents taking psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing and items of necessity. However, children are not provided with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

- 3. Journey House management provide all children with required monthly clothing allowance.**



Journey House, Inc.
A Non-profit Corporation

ATTACHMENT
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Michele McKinley, CPA
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Michael B. Mueller
Vicki Peterson
Douglas Stephen

Revised

Correction Action Plan

April 15, 2006

Honorary Members

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Jed Minoff, Esq.
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Louise Osterman
William Segal, Esq. (d)

Administrator

Timothy D. Mayworm

Recommendation # 1

- a. The window screen has been replaced.
- b. The Board of Trustees had to take up this matter due to the expense. The Board, at their March 21, 2006 meeting, passed a resolution to raise the money and seek out three bids for repairing and painting the exterior of the house. A decision will be made at their April meeting.
- c. The carpet in the dining room has been steamed cleaned.
- d. The Board of Trustees had to take up this matter due to the expense. The Board, at their March 21, 2006 meeting, passed a resolution to repair and carpet the floor in the downstairs spare room.
- e. The carpets in all the bedrooms have been steamed cleaned.
- f. The dressers in the bedrooms have been replaced with new ones.
- g. The Board of Trustees had to take up this matter due to the expense. The Board, at their March 21, 2006 meeting, passed a resolution to raise the money and seek out three bids for repairing and painting the bedrooms. A decision will be made at their April meeting.
- h. The desk in bedroom one has been replaced with a new one.
- i. A new mattress and box spring replaced the mattress in bedroom two.
- j. The walls in bedroom three have been cleaned.

The method to accomplish these corrective measures:

1. Carmen Apodaca, President of the Board of Trustee, will organize fundraisers to help pay for painting and purchasing new bedroom furniture.

2. Marlene Griffith, Trustee, is collecting three bids from painting contractors.
3. Jerry Vogler, staff member, will do daily walk throughs, to observe damage or items needing repairs.
4. Jerry Vogler, will observe the condition of the carpets on both floors. If cleaning is necessary, Jorge Camerena, staff, will be asked to clean all carpets thoroughly.

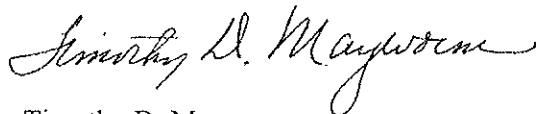
Recommendation # 2

- a. The therapist, Teresa Scottino, has agreed to include the Probation Officers in the treatment planning during their monthly visit. Invitations to participate in treatment planning sessions will be sent by Tim Mayworm, the Administrator
- b. The therapist, Teresa Scottino, has agreed to include each child in the development and implementation of their NSPs.
- c. The therapist, Teresa Scottino, has agreed to include more realistic and long term goals in the treatment plan and in the NSPs. This will be done in consultation with Tim Mayworm, the Adminsitrator.
- d. Tim Mayworm, the Administrator, will create a new Needs and Services Plan sheets that would be more suitable toward our clientele and our program.

Recommendation # 3

- a. Journey House has improved the reporting of all clothing purchases in each child's personal file. Jerry Vogler, staff, will record each purchase of clothing in each boy's file. Tim Mayworm, the Administrator, will supervise this procedure every month.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Timothy D. Mayworm
Administrator

cc: Board of Trustees
Teresa Scottino, therapist